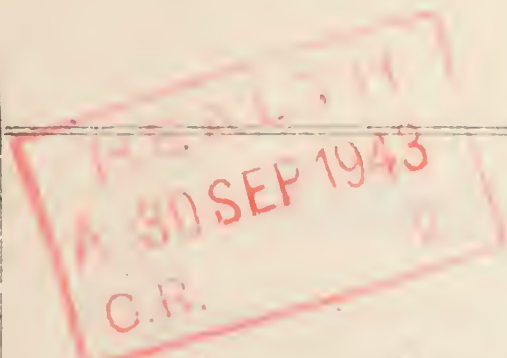


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(10)

Urban District of Solihull.

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1941,

BY

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

Leamington Spa :

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1943.

1, MILVERTON HILL,

LEAMINGTON SPA,

December, 1942.

**To the Solihull Urban District Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. TIMMS AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith the Report for 1941 ; it is again regretted that the Report should be so delayed.

As instructed by the Ministry of Health, the Report is again only a short statement of fact with no comment. All the available information is, however, being kept for record and, if required, can be produced.

With many thanks for much kindness on the part of the Council and my colleagues,

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Timms and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,

Medical Officer of Health.

## *Solihull Urban District.*

### A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1941	...	...	—
Birth Rate	...	...	18.8
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	30
Death Rate	...	...	9.8
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	{ From Sepsis ,, other causes	...	— 18
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	54
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			49
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	240
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	4
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	4
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	3

### B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. *Public Health Officers.*—During the year we had a Chief Sanitary Inspector, a Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector and one additional Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. Ernest Vaughan was appointed as Chief Sanitary Inspector towards the end of the year.

Mr. Chard, the Chief Sanitary Inspector for many years, retired at the end of September. As Acting Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officer of Health, I have known Mr. Chard since 1917, and have always found him a pleasant colleague, loyal to the Council and to his fellow officials; he is conscientious to a degree, and I regret his leaving the service of the Council.

6. *Laboratory Facilities.*—Bacteriological examinations by the Birmingham University :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria	93	362	455
Enteric Fever	11	16	27
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12	55	67
			549

8. *Hospitals*.—There are no changes to report in the statement given in the Report for 1930. The scope of work of the Solihull Hospital has been greatly increased, and the equipment has been brought up more nearly to modern standards.

13. *Ambulance Facilities*.—The Ambulances are housed at the Fire Station, Streetsbrook Road, Solihull. Telephone 2222 Solihull.

### C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

1. (i) *Water Supply*.—The mains of the City of Birmingham and City of Coventry Water Departments are available for practically the whole of the populous parts of the Urban District. More than two-thirds of the houses in the District are so supplied. This number is constantly increasing.

There are approximately 834 private wells supplying 1,195 houses.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage*.—Conditions remain much the same as was indicated in my last Report.

The three Cesspool Emptying Machines are kept very fully employed; there are about 668 Cesspools in the District.

3. (i) *Closet Accommodation*.—About four-fifths of the Closets are water flushed. It is estimated that there are about 900 Pail Closets in the District, of which 850 are emptied weekly by the Local Authority; in special cases this work is done twice weekly.

(ii) *Public Cleansing*.—House Refuse is removed under the Council's Scavenging Scheme; the majority of the houses in the District are provided with approved ash-bins.

The system of "Controlled Tipping" is in use, and all the Tips are well kept and a credit to the Council.

(iv) SHOPS ACT, 1934.—Number of Shops, 682.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT.—No complaints were received.

SCHOOLS.—The Elementary Schools and private schools of the District have been inspected as occasion arose.

RATS.—A number of complaints have been received with respect to Rats, and advice and baits have been given where necessary.



### D. HOUSING.

Full particulars of the usual table have been compiled and are being kept for record purposes.

3. *Overcrowding*.—There were many cases of overcrowding during the year ; this was unavoidable and there was no possible method of alleviation.

4. *Fitness of Houses*.—Owing to the staff being decreased and many other activities being imposed on those remaining, no routine housing inspection was possible.

*Water Supply*.—Where the water mains are available, it is the rule for the supply to be taken into the houses. When the only supply is from wells, the pump is almost invariably inside.

*Closet Accommodation*.—Apart from a few instances, there is usually private accommodation for each house.

5. *Clearance Areas*.—Nil.

### E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply*.—At the end of the year 1941 there were on the Register, Cowkeepers 89, Cowkeepers who retail the whole or part of their milk 45, Retailers 112, and Milk-shops 53.

Licences have been applied for and granted for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk and Pasteurised Milk.

*Tuberculous Milk*.—18 samples of milk were sent to the Birmingham University to be examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli ; no Tubercle Bacilli were found. As the samples were “mixed ones” this is satisfactory.

### F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

*Incidence of Commoner Infectious Disease since 1935.*

		Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1936	...	70	129	3	44	—	1
1937	...	96	136	1	55	—	10
1938	...	62	78	1	50	—	6
1939	...	18	50	3	54	—	9
1940	...	24	68	12	40	—	4
1941	...	6	28	24	37	—	4

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution of the cases notified in 1941.

*Diphtheria Immunisation.*—During the year the immunisation of Elementary School children was commenced, and during the year 3,082 children of age 5-15 were treated, also 1085 children under 5 years, a total of 4,167.

*Enteric Fever.*—The 28 cases of Paratyphoid Fever as in past years formed a part of a considerable epidemic, which occurred in the City of Birmingham, and there is little doubt were the result of the consumption of certain varieties of confectionery; the cases stopped when the manufacture was prohibited.

*Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases.*—The following list of school closures indicates fairly accurately the incidence of these diseases :—

Elmdon ... 24/3/41 to Easter holidays.—Whooping Cough.

Forshaw Heath 10/6/41 to 23/6/41.—Measles.

Notifications of all Infectious Disease occurring amongst school children are duly forwarded to me from the schools.

#### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE—PERIODS			NEW CASES.						DEATHS.					
						Non-						Non-		
			Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	
			M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.	
0	...	...	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
1	...	...	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
5	...	...	...	—	—	...	2	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
15	...	...	...	7	7	...	—	1	...	2	—	...	—	1
25	...	...	...	4	13	...	—	—	...	—	3	...	—	—
35	...	...	...	4	7	...	—	—	...	2	2	...	—	—
45	...	...	...	5	2	...	—	—	...	3	3	...	—	1
55	...	...	...	3	1	...	—	—	...	1	2	...	—	—
65 and	upwards		...	2	—	...	—	—	...	1	—	...	—	—
TOTALS			...	25	30	...	2	1	...	9	10	...	—	2

58 new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, 55 being of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 3 of other forms.

21 cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, 16 were discharged after treatment..

19 deaths were due to Pulmonary tuberculosis, 2 to Non-Pulmonary tuberculosis. Of the 58 cases notified during the year, 8 died.

#### REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The information for this Report is available.

TABLE I

## SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S  
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1941.

				Inspections and Observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances Abated after Notices.
					Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools	...	...	...	210	—	59	88
Lodging Houses	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	101	—	9	8
Cowsheds	...	...	...	121	—	36	42
Bakehouses	...	...	...	13	—	1	1
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	2	—	—	—
Canal Boats	...	...	...	2	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	...	7	—	2	2
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	...	...	24	—	12	11
Water-closets	...	...	...	37	—	18	14
House Drainage	...	...	...	207	—	96	97
Water Supply	...	...	...	63	—	10	9
Pigsties	...	...	...	28	—	5	7
Animals improperly kept	...	...	...	5	—	1	1
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	2	—	—	—
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	103	—	20	31
Ashbins in place of Ashpits	...	...	...	1	—	2	1
Rat infested Premises	...	...	...	72	—	—	2
Fish-fryers	...	...	...	2	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	...	...	1001	—	271	314

Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food	...	...	...	43
Samples of Food taken for Analysis	...	...	...	—
Ditto of Food found adulterated	...	...	...	—
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	17
Ditto of Water condemned as unfit for use	...	...	...	13

## PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed	...	...	...	46
Rooms of Houses Disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	150
Schools ditto ditto ditto	...	...	...	—

ALFRED H. CHARD, Chief Sanitary Inspector.



TABLE II.  
SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1941 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1935	36,040	572	15.9	19	33	291	8.1
1936	40,500	718	17.7	44	61	337	8.3
1937	45,360	849	18.7	51	60	443	9.8
1938	48,310	1,011	21.0	34	34	376	7.8
1939	—	—	19.9	—	28	—	7.6
1940	—	—	19.1	—	54	—	10.6
1941	—	—	18.8	—	54	—	9.8

TABLE III.

## SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE  
YEAR 1941.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox ... ..										
Plague ... ..										
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	6			2	2	2			6	...
Erysipelas ... ..	1			1						
Scarlet Fever ... ..	28		6	11	6	5			13	
Typhus Fever ... ..										
Enteric Fever ... ..	24		6	9	6	3				
Pneumonia ... ..	37	3	5	5	2	10	5	7		35
Malaria ... ..										
Dysentery ... ..										
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	4					2	2			
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	3	1	1	...	1					3
Poliomyelitis ... ..										
Encephalitis Lethargica										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1								
Polio-Encephalitis ... ..										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	55				14	28	11	2		21
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3			2	1					2
Totals ... ..	162	5	18	30	32	50	18	9	19	61

TABLE IV.  
SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1941.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes ... ..	267	310
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ..	1	2
3 Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—
4 Whooping Cough ... ..	2	2
5 Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	12	9
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	—	2
8 Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	2	—
9 Influenza ... ..	6	4
10 Measles ... ..	3	1
11 Ac. Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph. ...	—	—
12 Ac. Infant Enceph. ... ..	—	1
13 Cancer of B. Cav. and Oesoph (M.) Uterus (F.) ... ..	4	3
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duod. ... ..	8	8
15 Cancer of Breast ... ..	—	8
16 Cancer, other Sites ... ..	29	24
17 Diabetes ... ..	1	5
18 Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions... ..	12	40
19 Heart Disease ... ..	64	79
20 Other Dis. Circ. Sys. ... ..	5	11
21 Bronchitis ... ..	12	17
22 Pneumonia ... ..	21	14
23 Other Resp. Diseases ... ..	5	3
24 Ulcer of Stomach and Duod. ... ..	7	—
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	1	2
26 Appendicitis ... ..	3	2
27 Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	7	7
28 Nephritis ... ..	6	11
29 Puer. and Post Abort Sepsis ... ..	—	—
30 Other Maternal Causes ... ..	—	2
31 Premature Birth ... ..	7	9
32 Con. Mal., Birth Inj., etc.... ..	12	10
33 Suicide ... ..	6	2
34 Road Traffic Accidents ... ..	8	3
35 Other Violent Causes ... ..	8	4
36 All Other Causes ... ..	15	25

Name		Address		Occupation		Religion		Political Party		Social Status	
John Doe		123 Main St		Teacher		Protestant		Republican		Middle Class	
Jane Smith		456 Oak Ave		Nurse		Catholic		Democrat		Working Class	
Robert Johnson		789 Elm St		Farmer		Methodist		Republican		Rural	
Mary White		101 Pine Rd		Homemaker		Baptist		Republican		Middle Class	
David Brown		202 Cedar Ln		Engineer		Jewish		Democrat		Upper Middle Class	
Elizabeth Green		303 Birch St		Doctor		Anglican		Republican		Upper Middle Class	
Thomas Black		404 Spruce Ave		Lawyer		Presbyterian		Republican		Upper Middle Class	
Margaret Gray		505 Willow Rd		Retailer		Catholic		Democrat		Working Class	
James Hall		606 Ash St		Student		Protestant		Republican		Lower Middle Class	
Susan King		707 Hickory Ln		Teacher		Methodist		Democrat		Middle Class	
William Lee		808 Sycamore Ave		Businessman		Jewish		Republican		Upper Middle Class	
Anna Scott		909 Magnolia St		Homemaker		Anglican		Republican		Middle Class	
Charles Adams		1010 Poplar Rd		Engineer		Presbyterian		Democrat		Upper Middle Class	
Helen Baker		1111 Chestnut Ln		Nurse		Catholic		Democrat		Working Class	
George Miller		1212 Walnut St		Farmer		Methodist		Republican		Rural	
Betty Wilson		1313 Elm Ave		Homemaker		Baptist		Republican		Middle Class	
Frank Moore		1414 Oak Rd		Student		Protestant		Republican		Lower Middle Class	
Grace Taylor		1515 Pine St		Teacher		Methodist		Democrat		Middle Class	
Harold Evans		1616 Cedar Ln		Businessman		Jewish		Republican		Upper Middle Class	
Irene Roberts		1717 Birch Ave		Homemaker		Anglican		Republican		Middle Class	
Kenneth Clark		1818 Spruce St		Engineer		Presbyterian		Democrat		Upper Middle Class	
Lillian Lewis		1919 Willow Rd		Nurse		Catholic		Democrat		Working Class	
Milton Harris		2020 Ash Ln		Farmer		Methodist		Republican		Rural	
Nancy Young		2121 Sycamore St		Homemaker		Baptist		Republican		Middle Class	
Oscar King		2222 Magnolia Ave		Student		Protestant		Republican		Lower Middle Class	
Pamela Green		2323 Poplar Rd		Teacher		Methodist		Democrat		Middle Class	
Quentin Adams		2424 Chestnut St		Businessman		Jewish		Republican		Upper Middle Class	
Ruth Baker		2525 Walnut Ln		Homemaker		Anglican		Republican		Middle Class	
Samuel Miller		2626 Elm Ave		Engineer		Presbyterian		Democrat		Upper Middle Class	
Tina Wilson		2727 Oak St		Nurse		Catholic		Democrat		Working Class	
Victor Moore		2828 Pine Rd		Farmer		Methodist		Republican		Rural	
Wendy Taylor		2929 Cedar Ln		Homemaker		Baptist		Republican		Middle Class	
Xavier Evans		3030 Birch Ave		Student		Protestant		Republican		Lower Middle Class	
Yvonne Clark		3131 Spruce St		Teacher		Methodist		Democrat		Middle Class	
Zoe Lewis		3232 Willow Rd		Businessman		Jewish		Republican		Upper Middle Class	